Raid by Central Excise Authorities on Film Processing Firms in Madras

*149. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some film processing firms in Madras were raided by the Central Excise Department officials in February, 1989;

(b) whether the firms, Gemini Colour Laboratories and Vijay Studios were among those which were raided;

(c) if so, what progress, has been made in the investigations;

(d) whether any show cause notices have been issued to the firms and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what are the names of the principal individuals involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (e) The premises of M|s. Gemini Pictures Circuits (P) Ltd. Madras and M|s. Vijaya Productions (Pvt.) Ltd. Madras, two film processing companies were searched by the officers of the Central Excise Department in February, 1989. Show cause notices have been issued to the said two companies alleging evasion of Central Excise duties to the tune of Rs. 1.01 crores and Rs. 5.09 crores respectively.

2. The individuals who have been made respondents in the above show cause notice are: Shri Palaniappan Ramasamy, Managing Director and Shri K. Raghuraman, Senior Manager of M|s. Gemini Pictures Circuits (Pvt.) Ltd. Madras and Shri B. N. Suresh Reddy, Managing Director and Shri G. Sundaram, Manager (Central Excise) of M|s. Vijaya Production (Pvt.) Ltd.

Decline in tea production

*150. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tea output in 1988, particularly in the second half of the year, has shown a downward trend;

(b) if so, what was its effect on tea exports; and

(c) what steps are being taken to arrest this downward trend?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of market promotion organisation

*151. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up a separate market promotion organisation for diversification of jute products; and

(b) if so, what are the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A National Seminar on diversified jute products held at New Delhi on 17-18 March, 1989 has recommended that for the marketing of diversified jute products in India and abroad, either a new organisation should be set up or the task be assigned to one of the existing organisations in the jute sector. The proposal is under examination.